

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Gene and Betty Mathis exchanged their wedding vows on May 1, 1956, at St. John's Catholic Church at Plankinton, South Dakota, promising to share their lives and love together for the rest of their days; and,

*Whereas*, Gene and Betty resided and worked side by side on a farm northeast of Mt. Vernon for 21 years during which time their nine children were born: Pat, Pam, Calvin, Diane, Mary Jo, Julie, Karen, Wayne and Brad, and they have blessed their parent's lives with 16 grandchildren; and,

*Whereas*, Gene and Betty retired from farming and moved to Kimball, South Dakota, to purchase and operate the Traveler's Motel until 1999, when they moved to Mitchell, South Dakota, where they currently reside; and,

*Whereas*, Gene is a "people" person and enjoys fishing and Betty is an awesome seamstress and cook; and they have both spent their lives in service to their community, church and family, and thoroughly enjoy attending the activities of their children and grandchildren; and,

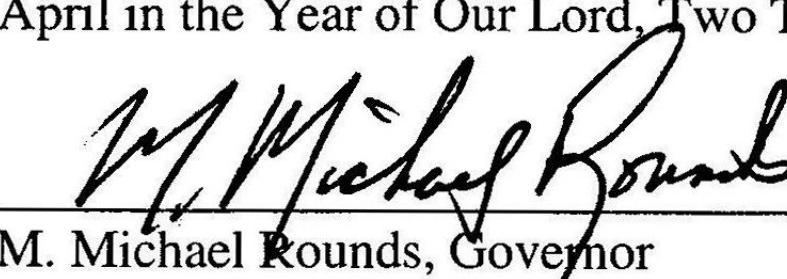
*Whereas*, An open house will be held at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Mitchell from 2 – 4 p.m., June 4, 2006, to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of a devoted couple who has shared life's beauty and sorrow and has grown to love one another more because of their common journey, and it is altogether fitting and proper that the Governor of South Dakota recognize and commemorate the memorable milestones in the lives of the state's outstanding citizens:

*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2006, as

### *GENE AND BETTY MATHIS DAY*

in South Dakota, and I join with the honored couple's family and friends in wishing them continued health and happiness in a state that stands prouder today because of their contributions and commitment.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

  
  
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

*Attest:*

  
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State